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~~SECRET REPORT BY DOD~~

DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD

GMD/PAG/M-25-65
17 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Department of State

25X1A

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Road Construction in Sino/Lao Border Area

REFERENCE: Requirement No. 3 (State L-65), Project No. 37001-5

25X1D 1. In response to the Department of State request for a photographic analysis of road construction along the Sino/Lao border, NPIC has studied [REDACTED]

25X1D [REDACTED]

A. The road from Che-li (21-58N 100-49E) to Meng-la (21-29N 101-34E) remains the only road in China serving the border area. It divides south of Meng-la, with one road leading west to Meng-peng (21-26N 101-17E), and the other east to Laos.

25X1D 25X1D

B. The road leading west connects just south of Meng-peng with a recently constructed road that crosses the Sino/Lao border and enters Muong Sing (21-11N 101-09E). Sections of this new road were observed on oblique photography from [REDACTED] and its existence was definitely confirmed on [REDACTED] 4. 6406

C. The road leading east passes through Man-san (21-25N 101-40E), crosses the Sino/Lao border east of Tai-chai (21-25N 101-44E), bears northeast to Boun Neua (21-38N 101-54E), then east to Phong Saly (21-41N 102-06E), terminating in Hat Sa (21-44N 102-12E). This road was built at least three years ago.

D. From Man-san (21-25N 101-40E), a new road is under construction to a point just southeast of Ta-ku-chang (21-13N 101-42E), or two nm northeast of the Sino/Lao border. Construction activity was observed on this road on all three missions studied. When last observed it had been cleared of trees, with one-third of the roadbed grading begun and construction of at least three bridges started. The southern terminus remained at the same location on all three missions.

E. The roads in northern Laos have not been noticeably improved, and no new construction activity has been observed. A very poor, unimproved single lane road connects Muong Sing with Nam Tha (20-57N 101-24E). Besides this road only jeepable trails radiate from Muong Sing and Nam Tha.

CSIP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

SL/16938

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2. All town references and geographic coordinates in this report were obtained from AMS map sheets, series L509.

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Assistant for Photographic Analysis, NPIC

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